

the 7th of February. Matchula is a town nearly north of San Luis and about one-third of the way thence to Saltillo, according to the maps before us. His army was in the utmost distress—*rodeado de miserias*—the Government having provided no means for undertaking such a march. We have a frightful picture of the state of the troops before leaving San Luis. One of Santa Anna's last acts before marching was to distribute twelve days' pay for the month of January. This could not sustain them more than a week, and the question was asked, "What shall we do when in front of the enemy?" The troops are represented as patient and loyal, but in a pitiable state of distress. In derision, they speak of going forth to solve the problem of "fighting without eating."

The same paper which announces Santa Anna's arrival at Matchula, mentions that Gen. Taylor is fortifying Saltillo, and has with him 6000 troops and sixteen pieces of artillery. This shows again the accuracy of the information possessed by the Mexicans of our movements.

In the papers before us, the latest accounts we see from Vera Cruz are to the 9th of February, two days later than the advices via Havana. Not a word is said of the evacuation of that city, nor indeed, of its defence. We have not seen an allusion to the movements of Gen. Scott, nor is a word said of any threatened march upon the capital. *El Republicano* is very much engrossed with the discussion of the political affairs of the country, and truly they appear in the most deplorable state. The nation would seem to have reached a crisis which must result in absolute political disorganization or revolution.

The Administration of Gomez Farias is charged by the press with inability to obtain the assistance of a responsible Ministry; it cannot by any exertion raise a cent of money, although it has a Congress so subservient as to pass laws placing the revenues of the church at his command—and the press is boldly preaching sedition and revolution, and the church threatening excommunication. In such circumstances as these *El Republicano* calls upon Gomez Farias at once to resign. The article is written with great force and eloquence, and his duty is urged home upon the Vice President, with a powerful appeal to his patriotism and magnanimity, to yield at once, and thus ward off the imminent danger of civil war.

From the *Picayune*, March 14th.  
Arrival of the *Arispe*—The Latest Authentic Accounts from General Taylor—The Summons of Santa Anna and Reply of Gen. Taylor—Latest Despatches from Monterey—Fortifications of Los Mueritos—Abandonment of Cerralvo—Occupation of Marin, Mier, etc. by the Mexicans—Contradiction of McCulloch's Capture, etc. etc.

The U. S. schooner *Arispe*, Capt. West, arrived in port yesterday afternoon from the mouth of the Rio Grande, having sailed thence on the 16th inst. Dr. Jarvis, of U. S. Army, came passenger on her. He is the bearer of despatches from Camargo, to the government at Washington. Dr. Jarvis left Camargo on the 2d inst. There had been nothing received there from Gen. Taylor in several days. The rumors which prevailed were brought through by Mexicans, and were of the most contradictory character.

Further details of Santa Anna's movements—Confirmation of previous Rumors—Capture of Trains and Merchandise.

We hasten to place before our readers the subjoined letter, from a valuable correspondent, which convey some further details in regard to the important events transpiring on the Rio Grande. We regret to say that they confirm to some extent the apprehensions which have been entertained relating to the critical position of General Taylor and the forces under his command.

Further news will now be looked for with the most intense anxiety. At present all is doubt and confusion. We still trust and believe that there is a great deal of exaggeration in the various reports that have reached us.

MATAMORAS, MARCH 1, 1847.

Gentlemen—This city was thrown into the greatest consternation this morning by the arrival of the steamer *Aid*, with letters from Camargo and Monterey, stating that Gen. Taylor had been attacked by Santa Anna at the head of 25,000 men at Saltillo. The postscript informing us of the truth of the matter, was added to the letter by Captain Montgomery of the 7th, now Quartermaster at Monterey. The letter was dated the 23d February, postscript the same day, which states that the fight commenced on the 22d February, and that no further information could be had. There are between 7000 and 8000 men between Camargo and Monterey, who have entirely cut off all communication between those two places. Gen. Urrea is at Marina, a town about 28 miles this side of Monterey with six thousand cavalry, and Canales has rancheros sufficient to make up the number. Gen. Taylor has issued orders that not less than one regiment shall attempt to leave Camargo on this route. Col. Morgan's command (the second Ohio regiment) about four hundred strong, left Cerralvo where they were stationed, to join General Taylor, after having burnt every thing they could take with them, and it is confidently believed that he and his whole command were either cut to pieces, or taken prisoners. That gallant, chivalrous soul Ben McCulloch, with his men, has been captured. He had not more than twenty eight men, all told.

This is all the fault of Gen. Scott for

having taken away the regular forces from that part of the country. Should Gen. Taylor be able to fall back on Monterey he can then hold out until reinforcements reach him, as they have some sixty days rations at that point. But I am afraid he is in a critical position, having nothing but volunteers with him; he cannot have that confidence which he would have, had not that immortal man, Gen. W. Scott taken away from him the whole of his most effective force. But old Rovech and Ready has determined to conquer or die. Santa Anna, sent him a summons to surrender. Tell Santa Anna, says the old man, "to come and take me." I have conversed with officers of the army here, who think that Gen. Taylor might be able to fall back on Monterey. He has some 4000 volunteers with him and I think they will fight to the last. Col. Curtis is stationed at Camargo, which is hourly threatened with attack. Some 700 of the Virginia regiment passed through this place three days ago on their way to join General Taylor. Should the General even fall back on Monterey, he will have a large body of men between him and Camargo, who can, and no doubt will take the place, and then down on Matamoros, cutting off Gen. Taylor's supplies entirely. Every person is on the alert. The Mexicans say that the army will take this place in a very short time. Several of the better class of the population are preparing to move to the other side of the river, in case the place should be recaptured, as they know they would be killed immediately. You will find this letter very disjointed in its details, but you may depend on the correctness of every part of it, as I received it from high military authority.

Yours truly,

From the *American Flag*, March 3.  
NEWS FROM THE ARMY—WAR!  
WAR!!

Our town has been thrown into the most intense excitement, by the reports constantly reaching here, relative to the perilous situation of Gen. Taylor's division of the army. They are so vague and confused, that we hardly know how to commence an abstract even. That a battle has been fought, no one here can doubt for a moment, but how it has resulted, or what dangers impend on the line of the Rio Grande, is enveloped in the most perplexing uncertainty. We give, however, what seems to be the best authenticated statement received here, from the seat of hostilities.

Gen. Taylor, while at Nueva, 22 miles from Saltillo, with 5000 men, was attacked on the 22d ult., by a Mexican force of 15,000. Finding that he could not maintain his position, he made good his retreat to Saltillo, covering his wagon train. Here a severe engagement took place in the streets, in which the Mexicans suffered a heavy loss. After destroying what of the public stores he could not transport, he continued his retrograde movement on Monterey, until he reached the Rinconada pass, where he was again attacked, but successfully defended himself. Here, all the rumors, reports, and letters leave him. Once in Monterey, and he would be safe, but his ability to accomplish this much was altogether problematical, as the Mexicans were swarming in every direction. A merchant in Camargo, under date of 25th ult., writes to his friend in this place: "Three expressa to-day from Monterey, fighting in Saltillo; Marine in Mexican possession; large train of wagons, 120, and 180 private mules taken; McCulloch's company taken; 8000 cavalry this side of the mountains; and things in general turned upside down." From another source we learn that Col. Morgan has abandoned Cerralvo, destroying all property he could not take with him; that a courier from Monterey reported, at Camargo, 15000 Mexicans between the two places, and that 6000 more were in the neighborhood of Victoria. This much we cull from the mass of reports before us, without vouching for its correctness. The destination of several boats have been changed within the last few days, on reaching this place, and one, (the *Troy*) held in reserve at Camargo, to convey despatches. All the wagon trains have been stopped here, and every one is on the "qui vive." We have strong confidence in old Zach, and believe it almost impossible to whip him; but should harm befall his division of the army, the consequence to those who have left him with such slender resources, will be terrible. We will suffer all the tortures of doubtful suspense until we hear something from our little army, that can be relied upon.

Capt. Henrie, who lately effected his escape from the Mexicans, has reached Matamoros.

IMPORTANT FROM TAMPICO.

In addition to the accounts from the interior of Mexico, we have news from the Island of Lobos, via Tampico, to the 1st inst. On that day between fifty and sixty sail of vessels, having on board General Scott, with all the troops assemble there, left that place for an attack upon the city and Castle at Vera Cruz. Every vessel in the harbor, that could carry either men, provisions or munitions of war, having been pressed into the service. It was understood that Gen. Scott expected to commence the bombardment about the 10th inst.

We have been favored with the perusal of a letter dated 26th ult., from a soldier belonging to the Palmetto Regiment, which states that they were all in fine health and spirits, and anxious to be under way for their ultimate destination. It states that the Newberry Company arrived at the

island on the 25th, in time to join the regiment before their departure.

Char. Cour.

FROM NEW MEXICO.

The following important intelligence, received by the correspondent of the *Evening News*, from Philadelphia, via Pittsburgh, by Telegraph, shows that our forces in that section of Mexico are in a most critical position, and that the next accounts from that quarter will probably be melancholy, inasmuch as there is every prospect that a dreadful massacre will be the result.

PITTSBURGH, MARCH 16.

By river we have St. Luis papers four days in advance of mail, with dates from Santa Fe covering important news. There has been an extensive Mexican insurrection at Taos. All the Spaniards who evinced any sympathy with the American cause had been compelled to escape.

Gov. Bent, Stephen Lee, Acting Sheriff, Gen. Elliott Lee, Henry Seal, and twenty Americans were killed, and their families despoiled. The Chief Alcalde was also killed. This all occurred on the 17th January. The insurrection made formidable headway, and the disaffection was rapidly spreading. The insurrectionists were sending expresses out all over the country to raise assistance. The number engaged in the outbreak at Taos was about 600. They were using every argument to incite the Indians to hostilities, and were making preparations to take possession of Santa Fe.

The Americans at Santa Fe, had only about 500 effective men there, the rest were on the sick list, or had left to join Col. Doniphan. Such being their situation they cannot send succor out, as they are hardly able to defend themselves. It is thought that Santa Fe must be captured, as neither the Fort or Block Houses are completed.

It is announced as the intention of the insurrectionists who captured Taos, to take possession of the government wagon trains, which are carrying forward our supplies, and thus cut off all communication. The representations made to Col. Doniphan, that Chihuahua would be an easy conquest, were evidently intended as a lure to entrap him, beget a spirit of security, and lead him far off into the interior, where he might be easily cut off.

It is the universal opinion in Santa Fe that if General Wool had gone direct to Chihuahua there would have been no trouble in New Mexico. Col. Doniphan had possession of El Paso del Norte on the 28th December. Letters had been received from the Governor of Chihuahua, stating that Gen. Wool was within three days march of the capital. This, too, was another ruse to lure Col. Doniphan on in confidence, and cut him off from all chances of escape, or of falling back upon Santa Fe, to relieve it in its emergency.

The Mexicans are bold in their tone and confident of capturing Col. Doniphan and his command, which consists of about 600 men, 500 of them being of his own troops, the first regiment of mounted Missouri volunteers, and a detachment 100 men from Santa Fe, under command of Lieut. Col. Mitchell, of the 2d regiment—consisting of 30 men from Clark's battalion of light artillery, under command of Capt. Hudson and Lieut. Kribben, and 70 from Col. Price's regiment and Col. Willock's battalion. They assert that they will massacre every American in New Mexico and confiscate all their goods.

A letter from Lieut. Albert, U. S. Topographical Engineer, of later date, confirms all the above intelligence. The details of the battle of Bracito are also confirmed. The massacre, beyond doubt, has been a horrible one, of which we have as yet heard but the beginning; and the insurrection has been kept so quiet until it was ready for the outbreak, that our handful of troops there must be demolished, before any effort can be made to relieve them from the most advanced of our Western military posts.

FRUIT OF EXPENDITURE TO IMPROVE LAND.

Mr. Coke, one of the most distinguished agriculturists of his day in Great Britain, and who was raised by his sovereign to the rank of nobility, commenced, in 1817, to improve one of his farms called Elsham Park, by draining, ditching and top-dressing the land with the soil taken from the ditches. In the course of ten years he expended £510 15s in these operations; which raised the annual rent of the farm £500, and of course yielded a profit of nearly one hundred per cent per annum upon the expenditure. Carolina planters are too shortsighted to look ten years ahead for profit however great, from an operation requiring present expenditure of money or labour. It requires money at compound interest, in South Carolina more than ten years to double itself. Now suppose a planter lays out a sum of money in improving his estate, which for ten years him no income, but at the end of that time, yields him a hundred per cent profit, and afterwards, no profit at all, it is plain that he is in the long run more benefitted than if he had put out his money at compound interest. But such is not the effect of expenditures made in the improvement of lands under cultivation. If judiciously made, they yield an income the first or second year, and continue to do so annually afterwards, under good management.

Cheraw Gazette.

"Cure for consumption," as the landlord said when she sprinkled snuff on the victims of her boarders.

## THE BANNER:

SUMTERVILLE, S. C.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1847.

AGENTS FOR THE BANNER.  
Messrs. DeLorme & White, Sumterville, S. C.  
T. W. Pzours, Esq., Camden, S. C.

REMOVAL.

The office of "THE BANNER" is removed to the new building next to the lot of Mr. JAMES H. VAUGHAN, on the Stateburg Road.

Any business connected with the office will be attended to at the office lately occupied by Mr. JAS. D. BLANDING.

OUR PAPER.

On account of the non-arrival of our printing paper from Camden, which place it reached on Wednesday the 17th, we were compelled to print this number on inferior paper hastily procured from Camden, to supply the deficiency and emergency of the case.

COMMUNICATIONS.

All communications addressed to "The Banner," whether of marriages or other matter, must have the name of some responsible person attached to them. They must also be postpaid to meet attention.

COTTON.

The price of this article, in the Charleston Market, for the week ending Friday the 19th, varied from 9 3-4 to 11 1-2 and 12 cents per pound.

PERIODICALS.

We have received the March number of "The Southern and Western Literary Messenger and Review," containing a continuation of Campbell's interesting "Introduction to the History of the Colony and Ancient Dominion of Virginia," also, the pretty song "Rosabel," to the air of "Lucy Long," with a variety of other entertaining matter.

The March No. of the "American Agriculturist," with a restoration of the former beautiful vignette, is received, containing its usual variety of useful, practical, agricultural matter, suited to the South as well as to the North, and for the benefit of both.

We wish to call the attention of those who desire to erect a memorial to the departed, to Mr. HUSTON's advertisement in to-day's paper.

SUMTERVILLE TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

FRIDAY, March 19, 1847.

The Society convened this evening at the usual hour.

The following resolutions were adopted:

1st. That the regular meetings of this Society shall hereafter take place on the first Friday in every month.

2nd. That the President, with the concurrence of any three members, shall have power to call extra meetings; said meetings, when for purposes other than that of hearing addresses and receiving pledges, shall consist of ten members.

After consultation, the motion was made and agreed to; "That the Rev. Thos. W. Mellichamp, the expected orator of the evening, be requested to defer the delivery of his address until the next regular meeting, to wit, the 2nd of April.

The Rev. W. Lewis then rose and addressed the meeting with much fervor and eloquence, and was followed by the Rev. T. B. Russell. Five pledges were added to the list; three of females and two of males.

DEATH OF A SUMTER VOLUNTEER.

Late letters received in this place inform us of the death of Mr. Scarborough Drake, one of the Sumter Volunteers of the Palmetto Regiment of So. Ca. Volunteers.

RAIL ROAD SUBSCRIPTION BOOKS.

The subscription books to the Manches-ter and Wilmington rail road are now open at this place, at Marion and Darlington Court Houses, and in North Carolina, under the commissioners named in the charter, to receive subscriptions to the amount at least of three hundred thousand dollars. The books were opened in this State and in North Carolina on the first Monday in this month and will continue open for sixty days from that time.

The crisis has now come which is to test the power of this district to fulfil the expectations which she has raised in the minds of the people of the United States in regard to this rail road.

Sumter will have done her duty, when she has done all that she can. No more is asked. She promised no more. Let her, then, do all that is in her power, and no one can blame her; but let that all be ample evidence of her efforts and zeal, in this cause. We have once before remarked, in connexion with this subject, if Sumter has the will, she has the means, and we still do not doubt the truth of our remark, but hope, in this case, to see it verified.

These remarks are made, because we believe it our duty, in accordance with our promise, to keep this matter before the attention of the people of the district, and to urge them, if necessary, to all the measures connected with this important enterprise. Let their determination be, that the road must and shall be built, and that they will do their part; and we believe that both will be done. Now is the time for action. While we look to Wilmington as the chief actor, we must look to ourselves as important players. The performance of our part is equally as necessary as any other to the success of this drama.

Your judgments are already convinced of the necessity and practicable construction of this road. The necessary funds are the only thing now wanted for its execution. Be ready, then, for the subscription books, as soon as you are able; and, if not ready to subscribe during this their opening, endeavor to make yourself able, as soon as possible, to subscribe at some future time. If the necessary subscriptions cannot be obtained in sixty days, they may be procured in a longer period of time. Then come forward now, and do your best.

SENATOR BENTON.

Senator BENTON, on being appointed by the President Major General in the army, and on being informed by the same that his powers as such were inferior to those of the present senior Major Generals, so that he could not take the chief command of the army now in the field, declined to accept the appointment, which had also been honorably confirmed by the Senate. It remains to be seen whether he will be appointed to attend the army, with ambassadorial powers to make a treaty with Mexico.

We extract the following from the Columbia correspondence of the *Charleston Courier*, 6th March 12, in relation to Judge WARLAW, and the trials of WHYTECOTTON and WRIGHT for murder. Judge WARLAW, we believe, will preside, for the first time, at our coming Court of next week.

Judge WARLAW, who has presided, is, as you well know, one of the ablest of our Judges, dignified in deportment, quick of perception, and thoroughly versed in the learning of the law; he only needs a little more urbanity of manner to engage the esteem as well as the admiration of the bar and community, whom his apparent austerity often offends. But however much his manner may offend, no one can fail being struck with the rare ability and impartiality with which he fills his high station.

The trial of George Whitecotton for the murder of a slave resulted in his acquittal, the evidence being entirely circumstantial and insufficient to fix the fact upon him. The prosecution was conducted with great fairness by the Solicitor, assisted by Mr. MYERS for the prosecution, who made an ingenious speech. He was defended by Messrs. DeSAUSSURE and TRADEWELL, in speeches averaging upwards of two hours each; that of the latter was a very adroit and skillful defence. The other case was that of WRIGHT for the murder of RAWLINSON, which also resulted in an acquittal, the evidence clearly showing it to have been an act perpetrated in self defence against a desperate and reckless man. The array of talent on his side seemed to stimulate the Solicitor, who made out a very strong case for the State, and displayed much ability. He was met with equal ability on the other side by Messrs. BLACK and TRADEWELL, who, however, were very brief, leaving the brunt of the battle to be borne by Mr. MOSES, of Sumter, who had been specially retained for this case, and who did justice to his high reputation by the manner in which he sustained the cause of his client. Since the day when PRESTON was wont to electrify the Court House by his dazzling and matchless eloquence, a more sustained and powerful effort has not been listened to within its walls than that made by Mr. M. in the case of WRIGHT, and which could not fail of its due effect upon the jury, a very intelligent one, as juries go.

LETTER FROM AN OFFICER OF THE SUMTER VOLUNTEERS.

The following is the letter referred to in our last number, of a date previous to the one then published, though still of some interest to the inhabitants of the district.

SHIP OREGON, Feb. 5, 1847.

Gulf of Mexico,  
Lat. 24 dg. 23 m. Lon. 95 dg. 3 m.

Mr. Editor:—Having just learned the destination of our Regiment, and not knowing whether another opportunity may offer so favorable to write you of our progress, I begin this letter in the midst of the "wide waste of waters," with the promise of closing it on shore, when we reach it, if possible. I have dotted down for my own amusement and information, each day, such things as I deemed worthy of note, and, from these "pencilings," I give you a succinct history of our tour from Mobile to this place, (if place it may be called.)

On Wednesday, the 27th ult., the Sumter, Abbeville and Lancaster Companies, A. E. and I, of the Palmetto Regiment, So. Ca. Volunteers, under command of Lt. Col. Dickinson, left Mobile on board the steamer "Creole" for the Transport above named. That evening we embarked on her, whilst she was at anchor in the Bay of Mobile, some thirty miles below the city. Here we were detained from various causes till Saturday the 30th ult. The Kershaw, Edgefield, Charleston and Richland Companies, (companies C, D, F and H, Palmetto Regiment,) under Col. Butler in person embarked the same day on board the ship "Alhambra," within half a mile of us. Major J. Gladden, with the Chester, Fairfield and Barnwell companies (B, G and K,) sailed the Tuesday preceding. All things ready, sails were unfurled, and a friendly breeze soon drove us from our native shores. This was on the 30th Jan. '47. In leaving